



Carver Coach Jim Bovender shows off brand-new Yellow Jacket Stadium, which will seat 5,000 when completed (photo by James Parker).

Prep Spotlight

Carver unveils its new stadium

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

It is fitting that Carver is opening its new stadium the year the high school has a playoff-caliber team. Yellow Jacket Stadium opened two weeks ago with the Carver-Reynolds game. Construction had started in February.

There is still some minor work to be done on the facility. The east grandstands were not in place by last Friday night's game with Mount Tabor. They were to be raised this week.

"I have to apologize to the Reynolds and Mount Tabor people," said Carver Coach Jim Bovender, whose team is 3-0 going into Friday night's game with West Forsyth. "Those three small bleachers on the visitors' side should be replaced soon. We packed the home side each game."

The concrete west grandstand seats 3,500 and the aluminum east bleachers should seat 1,500.

The field's grass is a Bermuda mixture. Bovender was surprised that it was ready in time for the Reynolds game.

"They planted the grass in July," he said. "I was very skeptical it would be ready for the first game. It didn't know grass grew that fast. We also had plenty of rain this summer, which is unusual."

Michael Styers, who coaches the Yellow Jackets' specialty teams, is maintaining the field. Styers is in charge of cutting, fertilizing and watering the grass.

Yellow Jacket Stadium rests where Carver's old football field stood. The team played at the unlighted field until last year, when it became a full-fledged high school. Since the field had no lights, Carver played its home games at East and North.

The new stadium is a handsome facility. Its features include a press box, concession stands, four concrete light standards and an all-weather track.

"The lighting is supposed to be as good as any other stadium in the county," Bovender said. "We've found a few blind spots, but they can be fixed by getting someone up there to adjust the lights."

One unfortunate side effect of construction was that the dirt ran over on the baseball field, where the Yellow Jackets have practiced. The diamond will have to be moved 15 feet.



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Prep Football

From Page B1

clean up from there.

"I don't know what I'd do if I was coaching against our defense. It doesn't have any weaknesses. Maybe the best approach would be to not worry about Carver and prepare for the next guy."

Bovender is quietly confident. Many believe he has a playoff-bound team. But with seven games left on the schedule, it's a little soon to be making plans for the playoffs. Yet the six-team Metro 4-A Conference receives two playoff berths and, with the exception of defending state co-champion Greensboro Page, no other team in the league can match Carver's talent.

"I don't foresee any teams being any more talented than we are," said Bovender, a former standout at North who has been at Carver for 16 years. "Our chances are as good as anybody else's."

If, however, there's one area where the team needs to improve, Bovender said, it's on offense.

"Some series we march right down the field," he said. "The next series we forget all our assignments. I'd like to be able to get the ball at the 20-yard line, take our time and drive straight down the field."

Against Mount Tabor, the Yellow Jackets never got untracked. They totaled 165 yards while committing six turnovers.

But the defense did the job, stopping Mount Tabor inside the Carver 20-yard line three times.

"The turnovers put pressure on us the entire game," said defensive tackle Agnew, playing in his first game of the season. "But they also made us play harder."

McKoy appeared the goat as he lost three fumbles. But he became the hero with a 40-yard pass interception return for a touchdown with 6:30 left in the game. Quarterback Anthony Joyner found Horn in the right corner of the end zone for the two-point conversion.

"We came through and that's what counts," said Horn. "But we haven't played to our potential yet."

With 6-4, 230-pound Brian Brookshire leading the way, the Spartan defense made some vicious hits. Unfortunately for Carver, one blow resulted in a broken wrist for Richard Daniels, who plays flanker and placekicker.

"This is a big blow," Bovender said. "It takes away a whole dimension of our offense because of his speed."

Daniels has run the 40-yard dash in 4.4. Bovender plans to bring up Stephon Debnam from the jayvees to replace Daniels. Debnam, Derrick's brother, is a 6-foot, 182-pound kicker.

Prep Honor Roll

Parkland's Martin has 230-yard game

Kennard Martin rushed for 230 yards on 22 carries and scored two touchdowns to lead Parkland past North Forsyth 14-10.

Martin's superb effort -- the best running effort by a Forsyth County player this season -- came on a night when he was suffering a cold

North's Charles Baldwin countered with 128 yards, including an 80-yard touchdown run

Ray Agnew and Fernando Horn helped Carver hold Mount Tabor to 80 yards in total offense in the Yellow Jackets' 8-0 victory. The Spartans, recipients of six turnovers, failed to score inside the Yellow Jacket 20-yard line on three occasions.

Agnew had four unassisted tackles and three sacks, while Horn had four solo hits and three sacks. Horn now has 23 unassisted hits on the season

Teammate Rodney McKoy raced 40 yards with an interception off Andra "Boo Boo" Baker for the only touchdown of the game

D.C. Gaither intercepted his fourth pass of the season for Mount Tabor. Gaither's interception came on his own goal line just before the half. Teammate Brian Brookshire led a defense that limited Carver to 165 yards and caused six Yellow Jacket turnovers

Maurice Robinson scored three touchdowns and Denorris Hayes raced 50 yards for another score to lead East's 28-0 blanking of Reynolds

Bobby Paige returned a punt 66 yards for a touchdown and that was all the scoring unbeaten West needed to shut out previously unbeaten Glenn 14-0



Ray Agnew

bable for the Carver game

Mount Tabor expects to have quarterback Brad Schreiber ready for next Friday night's game with Kannapolis. Schreiber dislocated a knee in preseason practice. The Spartans also get back Royle Cunningham for their conference opener. Cunningham suffered cut fingers

before the season

Dig the kind of team Carver might have had: Among the athletes who attended Carver in its 9-10 days were Robinson and Brian Howard, the basketball star from North. Howard was a pretty good safety, according to Bovender

If you're wondering where Robinson gets his drive, consider that his father is Spunky Hill, whom Winston-Salem State Coach Bill Hayes called one of the best players in Winston-Salem grid history

From the jayvee ranks, Reynolds has a bruiser of a fullback in Dredrick Booe. The freshman bulled for 167 yards and two touchdowns as the Demons beat East 28-14. Teammate Kelly Fldger added 120 yards and a TD. Reynolds, 3-0, takes on North, 2-0-1, Thursday night at 7 at Griffith Park

If you would like to nominate a player for the Chronicle Honor Roll, contact David Bulla by noon on Tuesday at 723-8448.

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Grid Notes

West tailback Herman McKinnie sprained his ankle but is pro-

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